REMARKS

This reply is in response to the Office Action of January 12, 2006. Claims 1-23 are currently pending in this application and are submitted for reconsideration. Careful reconsideration is courteously requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,912,567, Allard et al. ("Allard"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that claims 1-23 recite subject matter not shown or described by Allard.

Allard does not show or suggest the respective combinations of features recited in the instant claims.

In the instant case, independent claims 1, 5 and 21 recite, among other things, "an access control system…comprising: a memory containing an IP address assigned to the user computer," claims 9 and 13 recite, among other things, "storing an IP address of the user computer in a memory of the access control system," and claims 16 and 20 recite, among other things, "the IP address of the user computer [is] contained in the memory of the access control system."

In addition, independent claims 1 and 5 recite, among other things, "IP address of a data packet received from the user computer," claims 9 and 13 recite, among other things, "receiving a data packet from the user computer," claims 16, 20 and 21 recite, among other things, "IP address of a data packet sent from the user computer."

In addition, independent claims 1 and 5 recite, among other things, "terminat[ing] a connection…when an originating IP address of a data packet…does not match the IP address assigned to the user computer that is contained in the memory," claim 9 recites, among other things, "comparing an originating IP address of the data packet with the IP address of the user computer stored in the memory…and denying the user computer access," claim 13 recites, among other things, "comparing an originating IP address of the data packet with the IP address of the user computer stored in the memory…and terminating a connection," claim 16 recites, among other things, "wherein the memory…is programmed to terminate a connection between the host computer system and user computer…when an originating IP address…does not match the IP address of the user computer contained in the memory," claim 20 recites, among other things, "wherein the access control system is programmed to deny the user computer access when an originating IP address…does not match the IP address of the user computer contained in the memory," and claim 21 recites, among other things, "a comparator structure configured to terminate a connection between a user computer and a network when an originating IP address of a data packet received from the user computer does not match the IP address assigned to the user computer."

It is submitted that <u>Allard</u> does not describe or suggest the combinations of features recited in the present claims. <u>Allard</u> merely describes a broadband multi-server proxy server (BMPS) that enables customers to select and sign up for an ISP of their choice from the Internet. In this regard, <u>Allard</u>, states, "a customer or end user signs up

for ISP service typically by means other than the network, for example, mail, phone, card, etc...the ISP sends the customer a logon program with the ISP's IP address, logon script and a customer ID and password...the ISP sends the BMPS server a database update message containing the user name, user ID, password and other details...a test is performed by the BMPS...to determine if the customer is a current broadband customer. A "no" condition indicates an error message...a "yes" condition...transfers the process...in which the BMPS updates the database 23 with the information and maps the data to a physical broadbased modem sending or source address such as the modem MAC address. Thereafter...the BMPS authorizes the modem and router for access to the ISP...The BMPS sends the authorization message to the ISP host...after which the customer is ready to access the internet through the ISP of his/her choice...the customer powers on...a "yes" condition...stores the customer ID and password in its database...the BMPS sends the selected ISP the extended DHCP message with user ID and password and using the BMPS as the source address...the ISP conducts a test...[in] a "yes" condition...the ISP sends an extended DHCP response with the customer's assigned IP address to the BMPS...The BMPS maps the assigned IP address to the appropriate outstanding customer request...the BMPS emulates the ISP...and then updates the network router to allow the new address. The customer updates its address book...to include the assigned IP address in the address field of messages. With the IP address the customer conducts normal ISP traffic." (See Col. 6, line 15 – Col. 7, line 15).

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Accordingly, it is seen that <u>Allard</u> is concerned with "signing up" with an ISP via a proxy server and, once logged onto the proxy server does not, e.g., compare the IP address of data packets received from the <u>user computer</u> with the IP address stored in the memory and denying or terminating access if the originating IP addresses of data packets differs from the IP address of the <u>user computer</u> that are stored in the memory of the access control system.

While the Examiner asserts that column 8, lines 28-31 recites, "IP address is assigned to the user computer," the passage actually recites that, "the unique customer IP address [is stored] in the server <u>as an origination source for a customer request</u>," such that the IP address is not associated with the user computer. Notably, <u>Allard's</u> use of the server as an origination source for a customer request illustrates that <u>Allard</u> does not compare the IP addresses of data packets received from the user computer with those saved in a memory for purposes of preventing malicious acts, such as IP spoofing.

Also, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Column 2, lines 27-30 recites "a broadband Multi-service Proxy Server (BMPS) having a database containing customer service information…<u>The MAC addresses of cable customers are stored in the database.</u>" This passage does not disclose that the IP addresses of the <u>user computer</u> are stored in a database. Furthermore, Column 3, line 65 to Column 4, line 10 disclose that the MAC addresses are assigned to a cable modem; "each <u>cable modem</u> is assigned a Medium Access Control (MAC) address on a shared cable." (Emphasis

added).

It is, thus, respectfully submitted that <u>Allard</u> does not disclose the various combinations of features recited in each of claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 16 20 and 21. Applicant respectfully submits that the instant claims are in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 14-1437.

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